

1 **Amendments to the Specification**

2 Please delete the paragraphs at page 27, lines 3-13 and replace them with
3 the following new paragraph:

4
5 --An apparatus for providing optical radiation having a signal
6 wavelength λ_s includes which at least one pump to provide pump
7 radiation, a gain medium, and energy limiter. The pump radiation acts
8 on the gain medium to provide stored energy and gain for optical
9 amplification. The gain has a maximum gain at a wavelength at which
10 the maximum gain occurs, and the energy limiter limits the maximum
11 gain and the amount of stored energy that is able to be stored to values
12 below those at which the stored energy will cause damage to the
13 apparatus.--

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15 (End of amendments to the specification.)

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17 (Continued on next page.)
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